

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

BASIC AND OVERALL PROJECT PURPOSE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

BASIC PURPOSE

The restoration and enhancement of ecological functions, including aquatic habitat restoration; and improvements to the water conveyance infrastructure and the supply and reliability of water deliveries conveyed.

OVERALL PROJECT PURPOSE

To implement the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), which has been designed to achieve the co-equal goals of providing for the conservation and management of aquatic and terrestrial species, including the restoration and enhancement of ecological functions in the Delta, and improving current water supplies and the reliability of delivery of water supplies conveyed through the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP). To accomplish these goals, the BDCP sets out a comprehensive, integrated conservation strategy that involves: 1) substantial modifications and improvements to SWP and CVP water conveyance facilities in the Delta and vicinity, including the potential addition of new points of diversion in the north Delta and other facilities to convey water around the Delta; 2) operational changes to the SWP and CVP; 3) extensive protection and restoration of physical habitat, including actions to expand the extent and quality of intertidal, floodplain and other aquatic habitats in the Delta and vicinity; and 4) actions to address other stressors that adversely affect covered species. The BDCP will achieve these goals in a manner that meets the requirements of applicable federal and state laws, including the Endangered Species and Clean Water acts, and in accord with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009.

ACTION 1 – WATER OPERATIONS AND CONVEYANCE INFRASTRUCTURE

The proposed action is the implementation of the Water Operations and Conveyance Conservation Measures component of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The water operations and conveyance conservations measures are designed to allow greater flexibility in balancing the needs of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta estuary (Delta) with reliable water supply. Specifically, actions include modifications to the State Water Project and Central Valley Project conveyance facilities, including the addition of new points of diversion in the north Delta, and other facilities to convey water around the Delta. These water conveyance measures will align water operations in the Delta to better reflect seasonal flow patterns, reduce the physical impact of a southern Delta diversion point, and protect fish with state of the art fish screens.